Mental Deficiency Act”. The Act contains no such limitation. It would be possible to certify a moral imbecile at any age.

The volume cannot be regarded as a satisfying contribution to the problem of misconduct and crime. G. Auden.


The Foundations of Psychology. By Jared Sparks Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy in Western Reserve University. Pp. 239 + xix. 1921. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.

At the moment Professor Woodworth’s new book is probably the best introductory manual upon psychology. It is based upon a mimeographed edition which was for two years in use in the University classes conducted by the author and his colleagues, and the revision of that earlier version appears to have been the result of a co-operative enterprise in which both students and teachers have shared. The resulting volume demonstrates that this is an excellent way to compile a clear and compressed text-book for the beginner. The only blemishes are the frequent lapses into colloquial phrases, which must sometimes irritate the English student, though they may delight and stimulate the American freshman. Seeing that, when Professor Woodworth was an English lecturer, he spoke and wrote in a style which was never undignified, we may perhaps attribute these incongruities to the more youthful of his collaborators.

The earlier portions of the book deal mainly with what used to be termed physiological psychology and experimental psychology respectively; but the student is speedily introduced to the concept of behaviour; and, significantly enough, instincts, emotions, and feelings are discussed before the several senses are analysed. Brief sections are inserted upon psycho-analytic mechanisms and upon Freud’s theory of dreams and unconscious wishes—“not”, however (as the writer quaintly and correctly remarks), “that Freud would altogether O.K. our account of dreams”.

Professor Moore’s volume on The Foundations of Psychology is designed to serve a double purpose: first, as a manual for advanced courses in general psychology, and, secondly, as a book for the general reader interested in the nature and methods of mental science. It is divided into three main sections, which deal successively with the definition, the field, and the postulates of psychology.

To the student the concluding chapter, upon theories of the subconscious, is of special interest. Professor Moore here follows the view put forward by Bernard Hart, describing the latter’s contribution to the subject (Hart’s chapter in the joint volume on Subconscious Phenomena) as being “probably the best essay on the subconscious that has ever been written”.

In an interesting scheme, Professor Moore proceeds to reconcile the views of Freud and Morton Prince both with each other and with his own
particular theory. Morton Prince's 'co-consciousness' he considers to be simply a dissociated state of personal consciousness. Freud's 'fore-conscious' he identifies with the 'ultra-marginal' level of the mind (that is to say, conscious states which are not only outside the field of attention, but even beyond the margin of personal consciousness). Freud's 'unconscious' he regards as a dissociated portion of the same ultra-marginal level. Thus, for Professor Moore, the 'fore-conscious' and the 'unconscious' together make up what he terms the 'subconscious'.

Cyril Burt.


In this work Freud re-examines certain psychic phenomena, both normal and pathological, which cannot be explained by the pleasure-pain principle. He follows Fechner's definition of pleasure and pain as being conditions of stability and instability respectively. He recognizes the wearing of all the particular instincts in their search for stability in a comprehensive ego, and points out, as he has often done before, that many neurotic and other manifestations may be explained as the effort of these impulses, especially sex, to achieve pleasure in face of the reality principle. Beyond this, however, he finds himself forced to recognize a repetition compulsion which does not and cannot achieve pleasure, to explain certain phenomena such as the dreams of the 'shock neuroses', amongst which he includes most of the war cases.

He recognizes the selective and time-space reference functions of the higher (cortical) levels of mind which raise a barrier in respect to stimuli from without, but points out that there is no such barrier against over-stimulation from within. These stimuli are chiefly concerned with the feeling of pleasure and pain, and it is an effort to establish barriers against these which determines projection. The traumatic neuroses are considered as being due to the breaking down of the barrier against external stimuli. The final armament of this barrier is apprehension, which charges the defences against assault, and the dreams of these traumatic cases are not wish fulfilments but efforts to re-establish this apprehension, and with it the barrier against stimuli without which the pleasure principle cannot act. These dreams then, together with those of the psychic traumata of childhood, are dependent on the repetition compulsion. This repetition compulsion is regarded as an example of a deep-seated organic 'law' which is illustrated by heredity, the migration of birds, etc., and which many of the instincts subserve. Freud concludes that the tendency of instincts is essentially towards conservative repetition of previous states: the sexual life instincts towards continual recurrence of the starting-point of development, and the rest towards death, though the path to death is continually modified and elaborated by the reactions of the environment. The apparent impulse to progress in certain human beings he attributes to the constant demand for satisfaction in the shape of return to primitive states and the
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Cyril Burt

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